

August 2012 Newsletter

CIRM August Newsletter

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- CIRM Releases New Funding Initiative to Speed Disease Research
- New Video: Alzheimer's Questions Answered by UCSD's Larry Goldstein
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CIRM Governing Board Commits \$150 Million To Develop New Therapies



UC Davis Disease Teams and patient advocates celebrate approval of grant applications

On July 26th, the CIRM governing board approved \$150 million in new funding to help move promising stem cell-based therapies from the laboratory research phase to clinical trials in people. The grants, up to \$20 million per applicant, go to teams of researchers in both academia and industry who have been working on projects that represent the best possible chances of producing therapies for deadly and disabling diseases and disorders which include Huntington's disease, metastatic melanoma, osteoporosis, critical limb ischemia, spinal cord injury, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and cardiovascular disease. The funding is part of the Disease Team II awards which are designed to encourage multidisciplinary teams of researchers from academic institutions, medical centers and industry to work together and to develop new treatments for a broad range of therapies.

- Read the press release
- Read the blog about the funding awards
- Listen to a radio interview with CIRM President Alan Trounson and UC Davis grantee Jan Nolte about the awards

CIRM Releases New Funding Initiative to Speed Disease Research

On July 10th, CIRM released three new Requests for Applications (RFAs) as part of the human induced pluripotent stem cell (hiPSC) Initiative. The overall goal of the Initiative is to generate and ensure the availability of high quality disease-specific hiPSC resources for disease modeling, target discovery and drug discovery and development for prevalent, genetically complex diseases. The hiPSC Initiative consists of **RFA 12-02: CIRM Tissue Collection for Disease Modeling Awards**; **RFA 12-03: CIRM hiPSC Derivation Award**; and **RFA 12-04: CIRM hiPSC Repository Award**

- Read the blog about the CIRM hiPSC Initiative
- Watch the July 19th Q&A Webinar for Prospective Applicants

New Video: Alzheimer's Questions Answered by UCSD's Larry Goldstein



In this first installment of CIRM TV's "Ask the Expert" video series, CIRM grantee Larry Goldstein of the University of California, San Diego answers questions about finding stem cell-based therapies for Alzheimer's disease. The questions were sent in by followers of CIRM's Facebook, Twitter, and research blog. Dr. Goldstein is director of the UC San Diego stem cell program.

- [Watch the video](#)
- [Read the blog about the video](#)

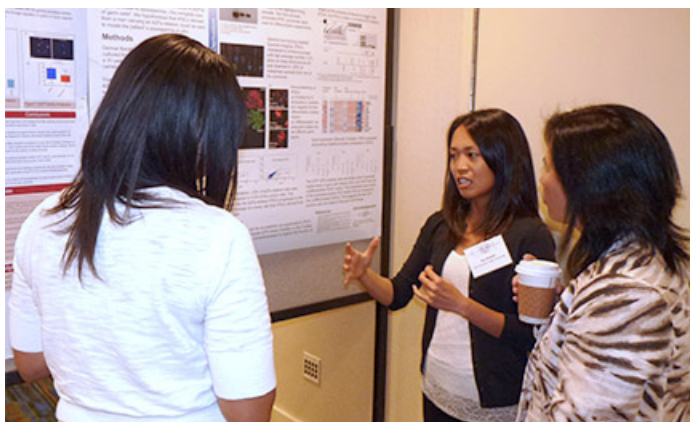
CIRM HIV/AIDS Disease Team Featured on Radio Program



In late July, CIRM grantee Paula Cannon of the University of Southern California was interviewed by National Public Radio's San Francisco affiliate for their Quest science program during the International AIDS conference held in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cannon is part of a CIRM Disease Team that is developing a stem cell-based treatment for HIV/AIDS. Cannon's team expects to start testing their approach in clinical trials within the next few years.

- [Listen to radio interview](#)
- [Read the blog about the interview](#)

CIRM Brings Together Future Stem Cell Scientists for Annual Meeting



On July 16th and 17th, CIRM held its annual Bridges Trainee Meeting in downtown San Francisco. The conference brings together more than 150 of the Bridges to Stem Cell Research students along with some of the leading stem cell researchers from around California. It's a chance for these undergraduate and master's level students to present research results from their internships. Over the past few years CIRM has invested more than \$50 million in this program, helping more than 350 students to do great research at 57 different academic institutions and biotech companies around California.

- [Read the blog about the meeting](#)

1000 and Counting: The Latest Publications on CIRM-funded Research

With over 1000 publications and counting, CIRM grantees are making steady progress on understanding the molecular basis of stem cell biology and moving stem cell-based therapies toward clinical trials. Here is a partial list of science journals that published CIRM-funded research in July along with links to press releases or blog entries from the CIRM grantees' home institutions:

July 1st - *Nature*

- [UCSD Press Release: Beyond base-pairs: mapping the functional genome](#)

July 9th - *PLoS One*

- [Western Univ. of Health Sciences press release: Pet store fish provide clue to how Alzheimer's disease may start](#)

July 16th - *Journal of Clinical Investigation*

- [UCSF Press Release: Deadly Liver Cancer May Be Triggered by Cells Changing Identity](#)

July 18th - *Nature*

- [Sanford-Burnham Science Blog: New heart failure trigger could change the way cardiovascular drugs are made](#)

Upcoming Events

ICOC Governing Board Meeting

Sept 5th & 6th: The CIRM governing board will hold its fifth meeting of 2012 at the Crown Plaza SFO-International Airport Hotel in Burlingame, CA. You can get location and agenda details by watching our meetings page. The agenda will be posted 10 days before the meeting. You can also sign up to receive announcements about CIRM meetings on our website.

Upcoming Requests for Applications (RFAs) Schedule

RFA 12-02: CIRM Disease Modeling Awards - Letter of Intent (LOI) due 5:00 pm (PDT), August 14, 2012

RFA 12-03: CIRM hiPSC Derivation Award - Letter of Intent (LOI) due 5:00 pm (PDT), August 14, 2012

RFA 12-04: CIRM hPSC Bank Award- Letter of Intent (LOI) due 5:00 pm (PDT), August 14, 2012

RFA 12-06: CIRM Genomics Award - Anticipated release date: August 2012

RFA 12-07: CIRM Early Translational IV Research Awards - Anticipated release date: September 2012

- [Get more info about CIRM RFAs](#)
- [Sign up to receive CIRM funding announcements](#)

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